DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 368 850 UD 029 872

AUTHOR Fass, Paula S.
TITLE Outside In: Minorities and the Transformation of American Education.
REPORT NO ISBN-0-19-507135-2
PUB DATE 89
NOTE 316p.
AVAILABLE FROM Oxford University Press, Inc. Business Office, 2001 Evans Rd., Cary, NC 27513 (paperback: ISBN-0-19-507135-2, $16.95; hardcover: ISBN-0-19-503790-I).
PUB TYPE Books (010) -- Viewpoints (Opinion/Position Papers, Essays, etc.) (120)

EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS Blacks; Catholics; *Cultural Pluralism; *Educational Change; *Educational History; Elementary Secondary Education; Females; Higher Education; Immigrants; *Minority Groups; School Policy; School Role; *Social Change; Social Influences
IDENTIFIERS *Diversity (Groups)

ABSTRACT

This book argues that the shape of American education in the twentieth century, its forms, functions, and contradictions, is related to the problems associated with American diversity, and that understanding the role that schools have come to play in society requires an examination of the history of the education of outsiders. Several minority groups (European immigrants, Blacks, women, and Catholics) are examined at particularly significant historical moments in their education and at points of special social consequence. The book is divided into two parts. Part 1 concentrates on European immigrants in American education and emphasizes the interplay between social definitions, school policies, and student experience to describe how the schools were recreated in the context of their pluralistic populations. Part 2 examines the federal government's influence on Black education during the 1930s and 1940s, higher education for women from 1945 to 1963, and the Catholic education experience during the twentieth century. Appendices include lists of extracurricular participation of men and women by ethnic group and activity. Contains chapter notes and an index. (GLR)

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